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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 002451

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STATE FOR EUR/WE, NSC FOR BRADLEY E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/25/2018 TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [UK](#)

SUBJECT: UK PM GORDON BROWN REASSERTS HIS LEADERSHIP AT LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, BUT DAVID CAMERON LOOMS REF: A. LONDON 2163 B. LONDON 2010 C.

Classified By: DCM Richard LeBaron, reasons 1.4 b, d

[¶1.](#) (C/NF) Summary and comment. Gordon Brown succeeded in reestablishing his authority at the Labour Party's Fall Conference in Manchester Sept

[¶2.](#) (C/NF) Summary continued. In his keynote speech, which the media dubbed "the speech of his political life" beforehand, Brown hammered the C In the Face of Sinking Polls and a Low Level Revolt... -----

[¶3.](#) (SBU) Prime Minister Brown's year-long run of grim news (reftels) continued in the run-up to the conference. A September 19 poll of 788 Lat

[¶4.](#) (SBU) In addition to the by-now predictably low poll numbers, Brown was forced to quash a minor revolt the week of September 15, after a dc ...Brown Comes Back... -----

[¶5.](#) (SBU) Brown's performance appears to have done the job. In the run-up to Brown's speech, key members of his cabinet, including Alistair Dar

[¶6.](#) (SBU) Nonetheless, the speech was well received, both in the conference hall itself and with the media, and Brown received a corresponding ...But Infighting Mars His Victory -----

[¶7.](#) (C/NF) Brown's comeback was tarnished by the leak September 24 of the news that Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly planned to step down at the

[¶8.](#) (SBU) Whoever ultimately leaked the resignation, the resulting infighting demonstrated that Brown still needs to shore up his support withi Taking Advantage of the U.S. Economic Crisis -----

[¶9.](#) (SBU) In addition to stressing the Tories' lack of economic experience, Brown and Chancellor Alistair Darling sought to highlight the regul Foreign Policy -----

[¶10.](#) (SBU) While Brown did not mention foreign policy issues in his speech, beyond praising the bravery of British troops in Iraq and Afghanistan Comment: Here Comes David Cameron -----

[¶11.](#) (C/NF) Brown had a good conference - but it may not have been enough. At this time last year, Brown was riding high in the polls. David C@ TUTTLE